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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/691,694 | 10/24/2003 | Baptiste Colotte | 244403US2 | 6624 |

22850 7590 04/17/2007
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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| EXAMINER |
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CASAREGOLA, LOUIS J

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3746

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS | 04/17/2007 | ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/17/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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H

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,694

Applicant(s)

COLOTTE ET AL.

Examiner

Louis J. Casaregola

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17:2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs, as the claimed invention is not described in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the same, and/or for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 and related dependent claims 2-10 recite "two electric motors each driving said at least one control actuator" (claim 1, lines 6-7). It is not clear how this limitation corresponds to the preferred embodiment of the invention. The thrust reverser shown in the preferred embodiment includes two motors, 14a and 14b, but each motor appears to drive a different set of actuators. As shown in Figure 2, for example, motor 14a drives the three actuators 12 for door 10a, and motor 14b drives the three actuators 12 for door 14b. It is not seen how the two electric motors in such an arrangement can be described as driving "said at least one actuator". Either the invention has not been fully and properly disclosed with respect to the actuator drive system (§ 112, first paragraph), or the present claim language is inaccurate and misleading (§ 112, second paragraph).

The claims additionally recite that each of the two motors is "controlled by an electronic control unit" (claim 1, line 8), and the claims then further recite "two servo control means for controlling the displacement of corresponding ones of said doors..."

(claim 1, lines 10-16). It is not clear, however, what delineates the electronic control units from the servo control means. Means-plus-function limitations are permitted under § 112, but each claimed means must correspond to distinct structure actually present in the disclosed invention. In this particular instance, disclosed control units 18a and 18b appear to encompass the various functions attributed to the servo control means, which raises the question of whether the control units and the servo control means actually constitute distinct devices as required by the present claims..

References

Johnson et al, Sternberger et al, and Langston et al are cited as disclosing examples of prior art thrust reverser systems. Because of the indefinite nature of the claimed subject matter, however, the references cannot be applied at this time.



L. J. Casaregola
571-272-4826 (M-F; 7:30-4:00)
571-273-8300 FAX
April 10, 2007

Art Unit: 3746

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Anthony Stashick, can be reached at 571-272-4561.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).